Pasadena Citizen



La Porte Police provide public with new MedReturn dropbox

The La Porte Police Department recently added a new fixture to their facility lobby with the intention of further promoting safety and assistance the public. A new prescription drug dropbox, manufactured by MedReturn LLC, designed for the purpose of collecting unused, unwanted, or expired medication will be made available in a simple and anonymous fashion. The new tool is intended to expand on LPPD's bi-annual participation in the Bay Area Council on Drugs and Alcohol's prescription drop off events.

The drop off box is the Department's response to the fact that that a sizeable amount of unwanted or expired household and prescription medications falls into unintended hands every day. Specifically troubling to Law Enforcement in particular is the increasing abundance of prescription drug abuse in both teens and adults. Such abuse is often the result of friends or family members stealing medication not prescribed to them, and often requires Police or EMS response when drug effects, or side-effects, occur. Therefore, LPPD believes the collection box will aid in their ongoing effort to keep drugs out of the hands of individuals who may use them in an unsafe or unlawful manner.

In addition, when viewing the situation from a non-criminal (i.e. non-abuse) aspect, many people simply do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away. Both of these methods have damaging effects on our environment and contaminate our water supply. Fortunately, such safety and health hazards will no longer be a problem with the MedReturn dropbox being made available.

La Porte Police officials advise that medications from individual households are accepted in any form, including prescriptions, over-the-counter, and even pet medications. Anyone considering using the dropbox is asked to keep the medicine in its original container if possible, and tightly seal the medication in a plastic freezer bag to prevent leakage or area contamination. Because of the anonymous process involved, intentionally done to encourage higher levels of deposits, anyone making a drop off is encouraged to remove personal information from the prescription labels. This can simply be accomplished by taking a black marker and covering over any name, address, or phone number.

Residents are asked to avoid placing needles, inhalers, or thermometers into the drug collection box, as their presence may result in injury or contamination, and may have components not capable of destruction by incineration processes which the medications undergo.

The MedReturn Drug Collection Unit was purchased using drug seizure monies and is now available to the public 24 hours a day within the La Porte Police Department Lobby, located at 3001 North 23rd street. For more information on the MedReturn process, please contact the Department at 281-471-2141.